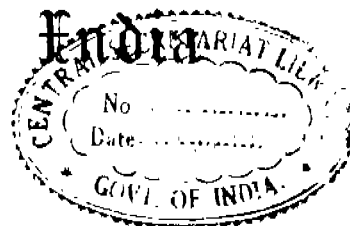


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EXTRAORDINARY

PART II—Section 2

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

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LOK SABHA

The following Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha on the 1st September, 1956:—

BILL No. 61 OF 1956

A Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventh Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. This Act may be called the Representation of the People (Third Amendment) Act, 1956. Short title.

43 of 1950. 5 • 2. In Part III, after section 23 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, the following section shall be inserted, namely:— Insertion of new section 24.

57 of 1955. 10 “24. (1) Subject to the provisions of sections 16, 17 and 18, every person who has been registered before the 1st day of November, 1956, as a citizen of India under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Citizenship Act, 1955, shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll for a constituency, if that person on the 1st day of March, 1956, was not less than 21 years of age and was ordinarily resident in that constituency. Temporary provision for inclusion of certain newly registered citizens.

15 (2) Every authority registering as citizens of India under the said clause (a) persons ordinarily resident in a constituency shall, as soon as may be after the 31st day of October, 1956, and not later than the 31st day of December, 1956, send to the electoral registration officer for the constituency a list in the prescribed form of all persons so registered who on the 1st day of March, 1956, were not 20 less than 21 years of age.

(3) Upon receiving a list under sub-section (2), the electoral registration officer shall, after inquiring into the correctness of the list in such manner as may be prescribed, direct the inclusion in the electoral roll of the names of all persons included in the list who, in his opinion, are entitled to be registered in the electoral roll for the constituency under sub-section (1)."

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

It is proposed to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950, in order that the displaced persons who migrated from Pakistan can exercise their right of franchise in the next general elections in accordance with the assurance given in Parliament when the Citizenship Bill was under discussion. Under the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, a person's name cannot be included in the electoral roll of a constituency, unless he is a citizen of India and was ordinarily resident in that constituency on the 1st March, 1956. The first step required to be taken, therefore, is to register the displaced persons as citizens of India. The Citizenship Rules have come into force on the 7th July, 1956, and arrangements have been made for the registration of persons as citizens of India under section 5(1) (a) of the Citizenship Act, 1955. Considering the number of such persons in the various States (and particularly in West Bengal where it runs into lakhs), the work of registration is not likely to be completed before the end of October, 1956. By that time, the electoral rolls for the year 1956 now under preparation are expected to be ready for final publication in most places. It will not, therefore, be possible, without some special provision, for the election machinery to include in the electoral roll the names of displaced persons who would be registered as citizens of India under section 5(1) (a) of the said Act.

2. In these circumstances, the best course appears to be to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950, making a special and temporary provision to achieve the object in view. It is proposed that every authority registering as citizens under section 5(1) (a) of the Citizenship Act persons ordinarily resident in a constituency should by the 31st December, 1956, send to the electoral registration officer for the constituency a list of all persons so registered who, on the 1st March, 1956, were not less than 21 years of age. On receiving the list, the electoral registration officer shall, after making due inquiries, direct the inclusion in the electoral roll of the names of all persons included in the list who, in his opinion, are entitled to be registered in the electoral roll for the constituency. This special procedure will be available only to those displaced persons who are registered as citizens under section 5(1) (a) of the Citizenship Act before 1st November, 1956, and who were ordinarily resident in India in some constituency or other on 1st March, 1956.

NEW DELHI;
The 29th August, 1956.

C. C. BISWAS.

M. N. KAUL,
Secretary.

